

From: Beverly Neale
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/3/01 12:02pm
Subject: Injustice

Dear Department of Justice

I write to complain about the proposed settlement with Microsoft. The enormity of the anti-competitive practices of Microsoft is quite astonishing. Hundreds of vendors have been deliberately put out of business, and their superior products (wordperfect and harvard graphics are but two examples) have been replaced by inferior "standards" such as word and powerpoint that Microsoft has been able to force on the business and home computing communities merely by virtue of providing the operating system. Even worse, their operating systems are inferior to competitors' such as linux, as they are less stable and it is much more difficult to write software for them. In addition, it is not possible to debug programs properly because the Microsoft operating system code is not available, so when something doesn't work as expected, it isn't possible to find out why. In essence, Microsoft has committed crimes similar to the September 11 World Trade Center events in their unprovoked attack on fair competition within the computing community and destruction of their competitors.

For these reasons, I think the operating system source code should be forced to be freely available. In addition, software products such as MS office should be developed for other platforms - Linux, Apple (which it already is) etc. If dividing Microsoft is the only way to achieve this end, as previous legal authorities have demonstrated, then it should be done.

Finally, allowing Microsoft to 'infect' classrooms with its own products is far from a penalty - it is the opposite of one. They should be made to provide much larger numbers of computers and these should be installed with Red Hat linux or Apple OSX operating systems instead of MS windows.

Sincerely

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